

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
Kiyoshi NAKADE : Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH
Serial No. NEW : Docket No. 2002_0087A
Filed January 31, 2002 :
SLASHER :
_____ THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination of the above-identified application, kindly amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 3-4 and 6-8 as follows:

3.(Amended) The slasher according to claim 1, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles water on the warp yarns by spraying water through one or plural nozzles.

4.(Amended) The slasher according to claim 2, wherein the moistening unit includes a plurality of nozzle groups each having a plurality of nozzles arranged along width of the warp yarns, and the nozzle groups are controlled individually.

6.(Amended) The slasher according to claim 3, wherein the one or plural nozzles are movable toward and away from the warp yarns.

7.(Amended) The slasher according to claim 3, wherein the moistening unit includes a movable moistening adjusting member disposed between the nozzles and the warp yarns.

8.(Amended) The slasher according to claim 1, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles hot water on the warp of the warp yarns.

Kindly add the following new claims:

9.(NEW) The slasher according to claim 2, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles water on the warp yarns by spraying water through one or plural nozzles.

10.(NEW) The slasher according to claim 3, wherein the moistening unit includes a plurality of nozzle groups each having a plurality of nozzles arranged along width of the warp yarns, and the nozzle groups are controlled individually.

11.(NEW) The slasher according to claim 4, wherein the one or plural nozzles are movable toward and away from the warp yarns.

12.(NEW) The slasher according to claim 5, wherein the one or plural nozzles are movable toward and away from the warp yarns.

13.(NEW) The slasher according to claim 4, wherein the moistening unit includes a movable moistening adjusting member disposed between the nozzles and the warp yarns.

14.(NEW) The slasher according to claim 5, wherein the moistening unit includes a movable moistening adjusting member disposed between the nozzles and the warp yarns.

15.(NEW) The slasher according to claim 6, wherein the moistening unit includes a movable moistening adjusting member disposed between the nozzles and the warp yarns.

16.(NEW) The slasher according to claim 2, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles hot water on the warp of the warp yarns.

17.(NEW) The slasher according to claim 3, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles hot water on the warp of the warp yarns.

18.(NEW) The slasher according to claim 4, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles hot water on the warp of the warp yarns.

19.(NEW) The slasher according to claim 5, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles hot water on the warp of the warp yarns.

20.(NEW) The slasher according to claim 6, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles hot water on the warp of the warp yarns.

21.(NEW) The slasher according to claim 7, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles hot water on the warp of the warp yarns.

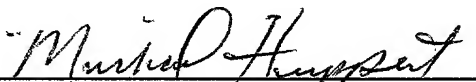
REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to delete the multiple dependencies of claims 3-4 and 6-8, thereby placing such claims in condition for examination and reducing the required PTO filing fee.

Copies of the amended portion of the claims with changes marked therein is attached and entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

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What is claimed is:

1. A slasher comprising:

a moistening unit for moistening warp yarns by sprinkling water on the warp;

a squeezing unit for squeezing the moistened warp yarns;
and

a sizing unit for sizing the moistened and squeezed the warp yarns.

2. The slasher according to claim 1, wherein the moistening unit adjusts water sprinkling rate at which water is sprinkled on the warp yarns according to operating conditions.

3. ^(Amended) The slasher according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles water on the warp yarns by spraying water through one or plural nozzles.

4. ^(Amended) The slasher according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein the moistening unit includes a plurality of nozzle groups each having a plurality of nozzles arranged along width of the warp yarns, and the nozzle groups are controlled individually.

5. The slasher according to claim 4, wherein the nozzles of each of the nozzle groups of the moistening unit are arranged at intervals different from those at which the nozzles of the other nozzle group are arranged, and water is supplied at different pressures to the nozzle groups, respectively.

6. ^(Amended) The slasher according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 5,~~

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wherein the one or plural nozzles are movable toward and away from the warp yarns.

7. ^(Amended) The slasher according to ~~any one of claims~~ 3 to 6, wherein the moistening unit includes a movable moistening adjusting member disposed between the nozzles and the warp yarns.

8. ^(Amended) The slasher according to ~~any one of claims~~ 1 to 7, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles hot water on the warp of the warp yarns.

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